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Olive Oil Without Borders

Palestinian-Israeli Olive Oil Project



NEAR EAST FOUNDATION

Partners for Community Development since 1915

Quarterly Report

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Near East Foundation

WEST BANK/GAZA: Trust Building – 3rd Floor, Nablus
Tel: +970 9 2396961 • Fax: +970 9 2396965

NEW YORK: 432 Crouse-Hinds Hall • 900 S Crouse Ave
Syracuse, NY 13244 • (315)428-8670

www.neareast.org

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Cover Photo: Women rest during olive harvest. Photo by Islam Shahrouri.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

FFS	Farmers Field Schools
NEF	Near East Foundation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PARCC	Program for the Advancement of Research on Conflict and Collaboration at Syracuse University, Syracuse NY
PCARD	Palestinian Center for Agriculture Researches and Development
PCP	Peres Center for Peace
ToT	Training of Trainers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government
VCA	Value Chain Analysis
VCAD	Value Chain Analysis and Development
WB	West Bank
WSR	Whole System in a Room
IOOC	Israel Olive Oil Council
POOC	Palestinian Olive Oil Council

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the activities and impact of the Olive Oil Without Borders: Palestinian-Israeli Olive Oil (OOWB) project during the quarter from October 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012. The OOWB project continues to make significant progress against its objectives, and its impact on cross-border collaboration around olive and olive oil production is becoming evident.

The key project achievements for the quarter from October 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012 include:

- **30 Palestinian women** participated in a rare cross-border site visit to two kibbutzim and a joint Israeli and Arab-Israeli NGO.
- **336 farmers** received farming equipment packages as the harvest season began. These tools helped to improve olive harvesting techniques.
- **13 lead farmers** participated in a follow up Training of Trainers site visit to network with Israeli olive farmers and traders. The visit provided farmers with the opportunity to network with Israeli farmers regarding the basis for cross-border economic cooperation.
- **35 farmers** attended the Annual Israeli Olive Oil Festival to learn about olive oil quality. This cross-border activity allowed participants to share technical knowledge about olive production and olive pressing.
- Planning started for the creation of an olive variety station in the West Bank in cooperation with Palestine Technical University.
- US Government officials, including the US Ambassador and USAID Mission Director visited OOWB project sites in Israeli and the West Bank. The Ambassador recognized the contribution of this project and its participants.
- Israeli Olive Oil Council and Palestinian Olive Oil Council officials met to discuss olive and olive oil joint policies for the first time in four years as a result of OOWB efforts. The Councils will continue to meet to discuss joint policy opportunities.



Participants in OOWB event.

II. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Olive Oil Without Borders: Palestinian-Israeli Olive Oil Project builds relationships of trust, mutual understanding, and collaboration through economic cooperation. It targets the olive oil sector because olive farming is a cornerstone of local rural economies. Critically important to many people in both the Palestinian Territories and in Israel, it is woven into many aspects of rural society and rural social relations and therefore has meaning beyond economic value; and it has become a flashpoint for conflict in the Palestinian Territories.

The Olive Oil Without Borders project focus on six clusters of villages in Israel and the West Bank. The NEF team and the Peres Center for Peace have well-established relationships in these villages. Over the course of the project, we will work directly with at least 1428 olive producers, 12 mill operators, and 12 olive oil distributors in these areas. The project will produce both economic impacts (increased income, profitability and cross-border trade) and social impacts (higher levels of trust, increased collaboration).

Our person-to-person approach, based on Value Chain Analysis and Development (VCAD), is organized as a series of activities to help groups of olive farmers, producers, and distributors identify shared interests, common constraints, and joint opportunities and to facilitate win-win solutions through horizontal (within groups) and vertical (between groups) collaboration. VCAD provides a structured, depoliticized framework for creating dialogue within and among seemingly disparate social and economic groups. We will: (1) build support for cross-border collaboration through a participatory Value Chain Assessment; (2) facilitate dialogue through —Whole-System-in-a-Room (WSR) workshops; (3) build a shared vision of economic development through stakeholder-led action planning; (4) facilitate collaboration through training, technical assistance, and material support for implementation of this action plan; (5) support joint advocacy for policy reform and institutional development; and (6) broaden support for collaboration through strategic communications.

The objectives of the project are as follow:

Intermediate Objective 1: Strengthen grassroots, cross-border economic cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians.

Intermediate Objective 2: Leverage cross-border economic cooperation to promote peace and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians.

Intermediate Objective 3: Build capacity of local institutions to scale up opportunities and conditions for cross-border cooperation.

III. ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS – QUARTER 5

A. Objective 1: Strengthen Grassroots, Cross-Border Economic Cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians.

Activity 1.6. Conduct Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions for 68 Lead Farmers from 34 communities (8 Israeli and 26 Palestinian).

Women's Training of Trainers. The NEF team began preparations for the women's ToT session for Palestinian and Israeli farmers. The Women's ToT will be held in February 2013. Dr. Fathi Abdel Hadi's contacts within the Israeli farming community are mostly male; therefore Ayala Noy Mer, one of OOWB's most active Israeli female participants, assisted in recruiting and selecting individuals for the ToT. Through the combined efforts of Dr. Abdel Hadi and Ms. Noy Mer, the list of 22 Israeli female lead farmers is complete. Approximately 52 women, both Israeli and Palestinian, will participate in the women's ToT planned for February 2013.

Throughout the quarter, Faris al Jabi and Dr. Fathi Abdel Hadi started to develop ToT training modules adapted for the women's training. These modules complement the current work of women in the Israeli and Palestinian farming sectors.

Second Round ToT (Male). While planning for the female ToT session, preparations were also made for a second male ToT to be held in March 2013.

As a result of NEF's cooperation with the Israeli Olive Oil Cooperation, the organization has agreed to assist the OOWB project in selecting male Israeli farmers that they believe to be leaders within their communities for participation in the ToT. The NEF team is aiming to collect a list of at least 30 male lead Israeli and Palestinian farmers for the upcoming ToT.

Lead Farmer Follow-Up Visits (First Round Trainees). In addition to preparations for the upcoming ToT sessions, the NEF team coordinated a ToT follow-up site visit for lead farmers trained during the initial ToT. On November 1, 13 lead Palestinian farmers trained during the first



Olive harvest.

year's ToT visited the Israeli Annual Olive Oil Festival. At the event in Shefa' Am, the farmers spent the day meeting both Palestinian and Israeli farmers working in Israel.

The visit provided farmers with the opportunity to network with Israeli farmers on the basis of cross-border economic cooperation.

During the visit to the festival, Faris al Jabi (OOWB's olive oil specialist in the West Bank) gave a speech outlining the project's cross-border elements. Mr. Jabi commended OOWB's participants from both sides of the border and highlighted their involvement with the project as an important step towards economic cooperation between Israeli and Palestinians.

Activity 1.7. Facilitate peer-to-peer training in 34 communities (8 Israeli and 26 Palestinian).

Peer-to-peer training began after the ToT workshop in the targeted communities in the West Bank and Israel. Palestinian lead farmers successfully trained 177 of their peers during peer-to-peer sessions held during the project's fourth quarter. Israeli lead farmers completed the initial peer-to-peer training sessions during the fifth quarter (October-December 2012). Israeli lead farmers trained 31 peer farmers in information learned during the ToT through a total of 18 sessions.

Additional farmers will be trained starting in July and August 2013.

Chart: Summary of Peer-to-Peer Sessions in Israel 2012

Cluster	Location	Period	No. of Sessions	No. of Trainees	Male	Female
Iksal	Iksal	Nov 12 - Dec 25	6	10	10	0
	Mazara'et Hanania	Nov 1 - Dec 6	3	4	4	0
Majal	Majal	Nov 8 - Dec 12	3	5	3	2
	Baqa Al Gharbiyeh	Nov 4 - Dec 11	3	6	6	0
	Sde Yacov	Nov 5 - Dec 13	3	6	5	1
			18	31	28	3

Activity 1.9. Support for adoption of improved techniques.

In October 2012, NEF distributed harvesting equipment packages to 336 farmers with 50% cost matching. These packages consisted of a ladder, a plastic tarp to prevent olives from landing among rocks and dirt, clippers, saws and plastic boxes for fruit collection. Each farmer--selected during the application process in Quarter 4--received the package before the start of the olive harvest season, allowing for the use of the equipment throughout the two-month season.

The equipment allowed farmers to improve their harvesting techniques. These improvements helped farmers to produce olive oil of a higher quality.

Through a random survey of 10% of the recipients, the NEF team found that the packages met the needs of participants and were utilized.

Activity 1.10. Organize site visits to Israel olive and olive oil production facilities for lead farmers.

Israeli Olive Oil Festival. On November 10, 2012, a group of 35 Palestinian lead farmers and mill owners attended the second week of the Annual Israeli Olive Oil Festival. During the visit, farmers tasted different qualities and varieties of olive oil. See Activity 1.6 for more information on this festival.

Visit to Khader Darawsheh's mill in Iksal. Lead farmers visited the mill of Khader Darawsheh to learn about Israeli oil processing and quality standards. During the mill visit, farmers asked questions about the 2-phase oil process mill system. This system is both environmentally friendly and cost effective. Since the start of the OOWB project, three different groups of farmers have visited Israeli mills using the required 2-phase mill system.

NEF believes that visits to learn about the benefits of the 2-phase mill will encourage farmers to invest in adopting the system in the West Bank. Farmers using the 2-phase mill system will benefit from lower operating costs and will be eligible to trade oil across the border that meets Israeli standards. This cross-border technology exchange provides benefits for Palestinian and Israeli participants.

Women's Visit to Kofr Kana. On November 29, 2012, a group of 30 Palestinian women participated in the first all-female OOWB activity with a visit to Kofr Kana in Israel. The women visited Sindyanna of Galilee, a women-led non-profit organization managed by Israeli and Arab-Israeli women. Sindyanna is a cross-border fair-trade organization that produces a variety of fair trade products. During the meeting, the Palestinian women listened to the organization's director talk about the benefits of cross-border economic cooperation and exchanged ideas about the creative process of producing innovative products.

Following the visit to Sindyanna, the women visited two kibbutzim where Dr. Fathi Abdel Hadi spoke about new olive species and improved farming technology. The women took samples to share with their communities in the West Bank.

During lunch, the NEF team presented the women with information about the upcoming all-female ToT session. The group responded positively to this opportunity.

Due to Palestinian cultural norms that do not favor women traveling without a male companion, this first women's visit served as a trial to understand how willing the women would be to travel to Israel for trainings in the future. The OOWB project team found the women willing and excited to participate in these activities, and

determined the trial to be successful. The women who were vetted and participated in the November 29 field visit have also been selected as the lead farmers who will attend the women's ToT in February 2013.

A success story is included in Appendix 3.

Activity 1.11. Conduct field trials of high producing varieties of olive trees.

The November 10 and November 29 site visits (detailed in Activity 1.10, above) included field visits to two kibbutzim in Israel.

During the November 10 visit to Kibbutz Beit Shan, farmers learned about the production yield for new varieties of olive trees. After viewing the different varieties of olive trees, the group visited a nearby olive press to reinforce the importance of adopting olive tree varieties that have a high oil yield.

The November 29 visit included a visit to Kibbutz Yezrael, where female farmers learned about olive varieties that produce high quantities of oil at a young age.

NEF specialists are currently surveying different varieties of olives that are immune to local olive disease and suitable to the West Bank environment. These varieties will be purchased for the West Bank station. Varieties that will be available at the station yield three to four times more oil than common varieties currently present in the West Bank. Farmers have displayed a strong motivation to visit the station, which is planned to launch in Quarter 6. Farmers are interested in learning and adopting in new techniques and tree varieties that will improve production.

Activity 1.12. Facilitate upgrading of at least 6 olive mills to improve quality.

The OOWB project had planned to complete renovations at the targeted mills by the end of October. Due to a series of challenges in upgrading mills, significant delays occurred during the last quarter.

The chart below addresses all changes to the activity and the future plans to upgrade six olive mills.

Chart: Activity 1.12 Progress (Y1, Q4 – Y2, Q2) Upgrading of at Least 6 Olive Mills to Improve Quality

Mill	Location	Planned Renovations	Current Status (as of December 31, 2012)	Future Plans	Comments
Agricultural Cooperative Mill	Salfit	85 grated plastic boxes for fruit storage (450 kilogram-capacity)	Completed: Received 85, 250-300 kilogram-capacity grated plastic boxes for fruit storage	None; Completed	Lower capacity boxes for the mill provided due to the unavailability of larger boxes. Boxes were purchased and delivered cross-border from Israeli Dolav Plastic Products Inc.
Al Naqura Mill / Baseem Mill	Al Naqura / Sabastiya West Bank	<u>Al Naqura Mill</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New testing lab • New toilets • Complete re-painting and flooring • Safety fence 	Due to an unfortunate robbery at the Naqura Mill during the 2012 olive harvest, the proprietors decided to cancel all renovations planned with NEF.	<u>Baseem Mill</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Complete re-painting and flooring 	After terminating plans to renovate Al Naqura Mill, NEF selected the Baseem mill in Sabastya for renovations. These are planned to be completed during the next quarter.
Aseerah Modern Mill	Aseerah Shamaliya, West Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete re-painting and flooring • New ventilation system • Pest screens on all windows 	No renovations were made during the last quarter. Due to the problem with al Naqura Mill, NEF was unable to provide the contractor with a complete contract including two West Bank mills. Aseerah Modern mill will receive renovations upon the selection of the last West Bank mill for renovation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete re-painting and flooring • Restroom removed from inside mill to be moved outside the complex. 	Although NEF planned to include a new ventilation system and pest screens on windows, the mill owner completed the renovations independently before the start of the olive season.
4th West Bank Mill	Undecided	Mill is yet to be selected	Mill is yet to be selected	NEF team will begin renovations on a new mill in the West Bank during the next quarter (Q6).	NEF field specialists are in the process of selecting another mill in to the West Bank to receive renovations in order to successfully complete Activity 1.12 despite challenges.

Mill	Location	Planned Renovations	Current Status (as of December 31, 2012)	Future Plans	Comments
Rishlakish Mill	Nazareth, Israel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stainless steel tanks Basic renovations to the exterior of the mill's structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 stainless steel tanks Installation of an oil filter to remove olive sediment after pressing. 	All renovations completed.	NEF did not renovate the mill's structure due to the owner's preference for a new oil filter.
Khader Darawshe Mill / Raed Hussein Mill	Iksal, Israel	<u>Khader Darawshe Mill</u> -200 m ² covered cement waiting area for olive fruit	Shortly after Quarter 4, the owner of Khader Darawshe Mill decided to build the waiting area independently.	<u>Raed Hussein Mill</u> -Approximately 85, 250-300 kilogram-capacity grated plastic boxes for fruit storage	In order to renovate 2 mills in Israel, NEF selected the Raed Hussein Mill to replace the Khader Darawshe Mill.

B. Objective 2: Leverage cross-border economic cooperation to promote peace and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians.

The OOWB project has been successful in connecting the Israeli olive oil firm Zeita Co. with 10 Palestinian oil traders. As a result of this connection, over 120 tons of oil have been sold to Zeita Co. according to traders and the Israeli OIC. As the olive harvest ends, more data on the number of tons of olive oil sold through this partnership will be available.

Activity 2.1 Documentation and guidance of reconciliation process by Reconciliation Advisory Group and incorporate conflict management and mitigation into curriculum.

Training materials continue to benefit from the input of the reconciliation advisory committee; these are adapted as necessary.

Activity 2.2. Adapt value chain framework to a cross-border conflict management and reconciliation context.

The VCAD Report continues to influence project implementation. Members of the advisory group will also providing support to field staff a principles, practical techniques, and best practices in conflict mitigation and reconciliation.

Activity 2.3. Incorporate conflict management and mitigation into training curriculum.

Training materials continue to benefit from the input of the reconciliation advisory committee.

C. Objective 3: Build Capacity of Local Institutions to Scale up Opportunities and Conditions for Cross-Border Cooperation.

Activity 3.2: Facilitate joint IOOC-POOC policy commission to undertake joint policy analysis and development.

On October 24, 2012 the IOOC and POOC met in Ramallah for the first time in four years. As a result of NEF efforts, the two councils met after involvement with OOWB to discuss ways to cooperate cross-border. Adi Naale (IOOC Director) and Dr. Mazen Ali (IOOC Board Member) met with Abdullah Lahlouh (Deputy Minister of Agriculture) and Nabeh Deib (POOC Chairman). The meeting participants agreed to work together to fight smuggling of oil across the border in the black market. Moreover, the councils agreed to find ways to prevent the adulteration of oil that commonly occurs when vendors sell adulterated “virgin” olive oil mixed with low quality oil to lower production costs.

During the October 24 meeting, the councils agreed to meet again with a group of technical specialists to find concrete ways to prevent smuggling and oil adulteration.

Activity 3.3: Broaden support through strategic communications

All photos and lectures from activities are available at the project's website: www.oowithoutborders.org.

D. Administration

1. Approved 2nd year implementation plan

The OOWB project's second year implementation plan was approved.

2. Visit by US Consul General and USAID to launch olive harvest Season

On October 21, 2012, American Consul General Michael Ratney, USAID Mission Director Mike Harvey, Palestinian Minister of Agriculture Waleed Assaf, and NEF President Dr. Charlie Benjamin joined OOWB farmers in Salfit for an event marking the launch of the 2012 Olive Harvest.

During the visit, the group of US officials received a tour of OOWB participant Sameer Al-Masri's field and mill. Time in the fields allowed for interaction with the farmer's family and olive harvesting, while the mill visit included official speeches.

The official press release can be found in Appendix 3.

3. Visit by Alliance for Middle East Peace

On December 6, 2012, Ms. Sana Shtasel (Executive Director of the Alliance for Middle East Peace), Rimam Barakat (Co-CEO of the Israeli-Palestinian Center for Research and Development) and Nidal Abed El Gafer from USAID visited OOWB lead farmer Mohammad Sholi at his olive farm in Aseerah Shamaliyah. During the visit, NEF Country Director Salah Abu Eishah talked about the cross-border and peacebuilding elements of OOWB. Mohammad Sholi shared how his experience with NEF has resulted in higher oil yield from his fields.

After a quick visit to the nearby olive mill owned by another OOWB participant, Qossay Hamadneh, Ms. Shtasel visited Canaan Fair Trade. Canaan Fair Trade is a local cooperation that produces olive products along with a variety of



Palestinian goods for local and international sale. Some cooperative members of Canaan Fair Trade are also participants of OOWB.

[Visit by the Alliance for Middle East Peace.](#)

4. Visit by US Ambassador and USAID to OOWB sites

On December 19, 2012, Ambassador Shapiro, US Ambassador to Israel, visited the recently renovated Rishlakish mill in Moshav Tzipori and a nearby olive field in Iksal, Israel.

During the visit to Sameer Abdulatef Almasri's farm, the US Ambassador, USAID Mission Director and other USAID representatives helped to harvest olives before taking them to Ayala Noy Mer's nearby mill. The ambassador's visit to an Arab-Israeli's farm and an Israeli's mill provided US government officials with a perfect picture of the economic cooperation that OOWB is working towards.

Over a cup of tea at the Rishlakish Mill, Ambassador Shapiro learned about OOWB through Ayala Noy Mer, female-Israeli OOWB participant. During the short talk, she shared her experiences with her Palestinian colleagues



Visit of US Ambassador to Israel and USAID West Bank/Gaza director.

across the border with whom she would not have befriended without being involved in the project. Ms. Noy Mer gave a tour of her newly renovated mill, while teaching the Ambassador how to press the olive picked earlier in the day.

The Ambassadorial visit allowed the US Embassy in Tel Aviv the opportunity to learn more about successes of the OOWB project and USAID's conflict and mitigation projects.

IV. PROGRESS AGAINST WORKPLAN

The Olive Oil Without Borders project has made progress as projected against its second year implementation plan. A chart describing progress against the workplan is included in Appendix 1.

V. CHALLENGES, REMEDIAL ACTIONS, AND LESSONS LEARNED

The olive harvest is the busiest time of year, and therefore meeting with farmers throughout the quarter proved difficult. Follow-up sessions in the field were challenging to coordinate as a result of farmers' busy schedules.

Delays in planning the women ToT session occurred due to NEF's Israeli olive specialist's lack of contacts with female farmers. After working closely with an active female Israeli participant a list of lead farmers for the women ToT was successfully compiled.

Due to Palestinian culture, women are not encouraged to travel without a male relative. In order to respect the cultural expectations of the Palestinian community, NEF decided to organize a one day ToT allowing female participants to leave and return to their homes the same day.

Vetting requests to begin work on the station in the West Bank have taken more than one month, as opposed to the average approval period of two to three weeks.

VI. PROJECT INDICATORS & IMPACT

Chart: Summary of Project Indicators, Targets and Impact

#	Indicator	Current Quarter (Oct. – Dec. 31, 2012)	Year 2 Target (Oct. 1, 2012- Sept. 30, 2013)	Year 2 Actual (Oct. 1, 2012- Sept. 30, 2013)	Year 1 Actual (Oct. 1, 2011- Sept. 30, 2012)	PROJECT (ACTUAL) (Oct. 1, 2011-Dec. 31, 2012)	Project Target (Oct. 1, 2011- Sept. 30, 2014)
1	Percentage of participants who indicate that they have an increased positive perception about “the other.”	NA	20%	NA	NA	NA	60%
2	Number of USG-funded events, trainings, or activities designed to build support for peace or reconciliation on a mass scale.	110	200	110	16	126	500
3	Number of people participating in USG-supported events, trainings, or activities designed to build mass support for peace and reconciliation.	624 (total)	714	624 (total)	300	TBD (controlling for individual participation)	1428
4	Number of individuals and firms directly and indirectly involved in collaborative, cross-border economic cooperation and partnerships as a result of the project.	TBD at end of olive harvest	800	TBD	17	17	2000
5	Increase in total production of olive oil.	NA	20%	NA	0%	NA	60%
6	Increase in total value of olive oil exported to Israel by project participants.	NA	20%	NA	0%	NA	50%
7	Percentage of direct participants expressing support for cross-border collaboration.	NA	70%	NA	0%	NA	80%
8	Number of policy initiatives undertaken jointly by Palestinian and Israeli institutions.	0	1	0	0	0	3

#	Indicator	Current Quarter (Oct. – Dec. 31, 2012)	Year 2 Target (Oct. 1, 2012- Sept. 30, 2013)	Year 2 Actual (Oct. 1, 2012- Sept. 30, 2013)	Year 1 Actual (Oct. 1, 2011- Sept. 30, 2012)	PROJECT (ACTUAL) (Oct. 1, 2011-Dec. 31, 2012)	Project Target (Oct. 1, 2011- Sept. 30, 2014)
9	Number of technical collaboration activities organized jointly by Palestinian and Israeli organizations.	1	4	1	1	2	20

1. Percentage of participants who indicate that they have an increased positive perception about “the other.”

	Project	Project	Current Quarter
INDICATOR	TARGET (Oct. 1, 2011- Sept. 2014)	ACTUAL (Oct. 1, 2011- December 31, 2012)	ACTUAL (Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2012)
Percentage of participants who believe that economic cooperation can leverage additional efforts at cooperation and reconciliation between Palestinians and Israelis.	0%	TBD	NA

2. Number of USG-funded events, trainings, or activities designed to build support for peace or reconciliation on a mass scale.

	Project	Project	Current Quarter
INDICATOR	TARGET (Oct. 1, 2011- Sept. 2014)	ACTUAL (Oct. 1, 2011- December 31, 2012)	ACTUAL (Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2012)
Number of USG-funded events, trainings, or activities designed to build support for peace or reconciliation on a mass scale.	500	126	110

3. Number of people participating in USG-supported events, trainings, or activities designed to build mass support for peace and reconciliation.

	Project	Project			Current Quarter		
INDICATOR	TARGET (Oct. 1, 2011-Sept. 2014)	ACTUAL (Oct. 1, 2011-December 31, 2012)	MALE (Target) (Oct. 1, 2011-December 31, 2012)	FEMALE (Target) (Oct. 1, 2011-December 31, 2012)	ACTUAL (Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2012)	MALE (Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2012)	FEMALE (Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2012)
Number of people participating in USG-supported events, trainings, or activities designed to build mass support for peace and reconciliation.	1428	TBD	TBD	TBD	624 (all participants)	583 (all participants)	41 (all participants)

IR 1: Relations of trust, mutual understanding and collaboration between Israeli and Palestinian olive oil producers increased.

4. Number of individuals and firms directly and indirectly involved in collaborative, cross-border economic cooperation and partnerships as a result of the project.

	Project	Project	Current Quarter
INDICATOR	TARGET (Oct. 1, 2011-Sept. 2014)	ACTUAL (Oct. 1, 2011-December 31, 2012)	ACTUAL (Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2012)
Number of individuals and firms directly and indirectly involved in collaborative, cross-border economic cooperation and partnerships as a result of the project.	100	TBD	TBD at end of harvest season

5. Increase in total production of olive oil.

	Project	Project	Current Quarter
INDICATOR	TARGET (Oct. 1, 2011-Sept. 2014)	ACTUAL (Oct. 1, 2011-December 31, 2012)	ACTUAL (Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2012)
Increase in total production of olive oil.	0%	NA	NA

6. Improvement in quality of olive oil produced.

	Project	Project	Current Quarter
INDICATOR	TARGET (Oct. 1, 2011-Sept. 2014)	ACTUAL (Oct. 1, 2011-December 31, 2012)	ACTUAL (Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2012)
Improvement in quality of olive oil produced.	0%	NA	NA

7. Increase in total value of olive oil exported to Israel by project participants.

	Project	Project	Current Quarter
INDICATOR	TARGET (Oct. 1, 2011-Sept. 2014)	ACTUAL (Oct. 1, 2011-December 31, 2012)	ACTUAL (Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2012)
Increase in total value of olive oil exported to Israel by project participants.	0%	NA	NA

8. Percentage of direct participants expressing support for cross-border collaboration.

	Project	Project	Current Quarter
INDICATOR	TARGET (Oct. 1, 2011-Sept. 2014)	ACTUAL (Oct. 1, 2011-December 31, 2012)	ACTUAL (Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2012)
Percentage of direct participants expressing support for cross-border collaboration.	0%	NA	NA

IR 2: Develop the capacity of local institutions to scale opportunities for cross-border collaboration.

9. Number of policy initiatives undertaken jointly by Palestinian and Israeli institutions.

	Project	Project	Current Quarter
INDICATOR	TARGET (Oct. 1, 2011-Sept. 2014)	ACTUAL (Oct. 1, 2011-December 31, 2012)	ACTUAL (Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2012)
Number of policy initiatives undertaken jointly by Palestinian and Israeli institutions.	0	0	0

10. Number of technical collaboration activities organized jointly by Palestinian and Israeli organizations.

	Project	Project	Current Quarter
INDICATOR	TARGET (Oct. 1, 2011-Sept. 2014)	ACTUAL (Oct. 1, 2011-December 31, 2012)	ACTUAL (Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2012)
Number of technical collaboration activities organized jointly by Palestinian and Israeli organizations.	1	2	1

VII. UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Objective 1: Strengthen Grassroots, Cross-Border Economic Cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians.

Activity 1.6. Training of Trainers.

The one-day joint women Israeli-Palestinian ToT will include lectures on oil quality tasting and the health benefits of olive products. Due to the different roles between men and women in the olive sector training sessions will focus on topics designed specifically for females working in the farming sector. Due to the cultural constraints of Palestinian women traveling without a male relative the women's ToT will not take place over three days requiring women to spend the night away from their homes.

Vetting requests for the Israeli participants will be submitted at the beginning of Quarter 6--more than one month prior to the ToT planned to take place in early February. Upon receiving vetting approval, NEF will submit permit requests for Palestinian women.

The second male ToT workshop, planned for March, will utilize the same training modules used during last year's workshops but will consist of a different group of lead farmers. The new lead farmers will participate in the second round of peer-to-peer sessions for Year 2.

Activity 1.7. Facilitate peer-to-peer training in 34 communities.

Peer-to-peer training will continue after the ToT workshops planned for February 2013.

Year 2 ToT will utilize the same training modules used during last year's workshops, but will consist of a different group of lead farmers. The new lead farmers will participate in the second round of peer-to-peer sessions for Year 2.

Activity 1.10. Organize site visits to Israel olive and olive oil production facilities for lead farmers.

Through a collaborative agreement based mutual assistance, NEF and the Palestinian Technical University will establish a station that will provide demonstrations of many varieties of olive tree.

PTU will contribute water, land, and professional supervision.

PTU will assign 10 donums of land owned by the Faculty of Agriculture to host 35 to 50 different olive varieties. The station will provide at least 300 saplings, 10 per variety, for grafting and rooting.

In addition to the planting of more than 300 olive saplings, NEF will provide the station with a drip irrigation system and other farming materials. These stations will provide visiting farmers with an example of the ideal olive orchard. The station will serve as a learning field for students of agriculture at PTU and farmers from all areas of the West Bank.

10 individual farmers from the West Bank villages of Salfet, Nablus, Tulakerm, and Tubas will receive assistance in planting improved olive tree varieties.

Each farmer will receive approximately 350 saplings and will be responsible for contributing land, a drip irrigation system and other farming materials.

The bidding process for potential suppliers, both Israeli and Palestinian will be advertised during Quarter 6.

Activity 1.12. Facilitate upgrade of 6 olive oil mills to improve quality.

NEF plans to complete the renovation of all mills in the West Bank and Israel by the end of Quarter 6.

In the West Bank the Aseerah Modern Mill and Baseem Mill will receive all renovations and a fourth mill will be selected. The last Israeli mill, Raed Hussein Mill, will receive all renovations.

Activity 1.13. Branding and marketing workshop.

The second branding and marking workshop is planned for the end of the quarter. Vetting information will be submitted by the end of the month.

B. Objective 2: Leverage cross-border economic cooperation to promote peace and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians.

Activity 2.1. Documentation and guidance of reconciliation process by Reconciliation.

Reconciliation team members Bruce Dayton and Catherine Gerard from PARCC plan to visit the area in March 2013. The two will work on the project's reconciliation components.

Activity 2.2. Adapt value chain framework to a cross-border conflict management and reconciliation context.

The VCAD will continue to influence project implementation throughout the second year of implementation. Members of the advisory group will provide support to field staff on principles, practical techniques, and best practices in conflict mitigation and reconciliation during their visit.

Activity 2.3. Incorporate conflict management and mitigation into training curriculum.

Bruce Dayton and Catherine Gerard will revisit the training curriculum with the project team during their visit.

A. Objective 3: Build Capacity of Local Institutions to Scale up Opportunities and Conditions for Cross-Border Cooperation.

Activity 3.1. Identify and prioritize potential policy issues.

See Activity 3.2.

Activity 3.2. Facilitate joint IOOC-POOC policy commission to undertake joint policy analysis and development

After the October 24 visit, the IOOC and POOC agreed to meet again with a team of specialists to decide upon a set of concrete steps to prevent oil adulterating and smuggling.

NEF will host the next joint IOOC-POOC meeting in Quarter 6. Invitations to the meeting will be extended to OOWB lead farmers ensuring the involvement of the producers of olives and oil in the policy making process.

Activity 3.3. Broaden support through strategic communication

In the coming quarter NEF Communications Officer and olive specialist Dr. Fathi Abdel Hadi will develop a series of video lectures on post-harvest techniques. These instructional videos will be uploaded to the OOWB website for farmers to access from all locations.

Photos, success stories and online reporting will continue through the next quarter.

APPENDIX 1: PROGRESS AGAINST WORKPLAN

Objective 1: Strengthen Grassroots, Cross-Border Economic Cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians.

Principal Activities	Specific activity with Description	Number of Beneficiaries	Sub-Activities	Tasks	Deliverables	Responsibility	Output Indicators	Outcomes	Impact Expected	Location	Timing	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Status of Achievement
Activity 1.6: Training of Trainers (ToT).	Follow-up workshops held in the field.	At least 68 lead farmers total: 16 Israelis and 52 Palestinians (40 trained Year 1; 30 trained Year 2)	Follow-up ToT sessions.	Four monthly session follow-up workshops held in the field.	Report on TOT follow – up workshops	NEF, and PCARD and Peres Center	• At least 68 lead farmer trainers trained.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A group of lead farmers trained and qualified to train other farmers. Israeli and Palestinian farmers have opportunity for dialogue and sharing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peacebuilding between Israelis and Palestinians through shared training/dialogue/technology and skill transfer. 	Field sites	October 2012-September 2013													In progress, workshops planned for Months 2-3
Activity 1.7: Facilitate peer-to-peer training in 34 communities (8 Israeli and 26 Palestinian).	Farmers share knowledge with peers in respective communities via training sessions, ad-hoc advising and agricultural extension.	1020 farmers total (Year 1 & Year 2): 240 Israeli and 780 Palestinian	Farmers share knowledge with peers in respective communities via training sessions, ad-hoc advising, and agricultural extension; monitored by NEF and partners.	Emphasize topics related to marketing, policy, and quality. Cover basic principles of conflict management. Relate to economic context of olive oil, and the importance of cross-border relationships in the success of the operation.	Monthly training reports on peer trainings prepared by NEF.	VCA actors, peer trainers; NEF (with PCARD and Peres Center) monitor peer trainings PARCC assists in design of materials related to conflict management (Act. 2.1 & 2.3)	• At least 1020 farmers trained (YR1 + YR2)	• Improved olive/olive oil production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peacebuilding between Israelis and Palestinians through shared training/dialogue/technology and skill transfer 	Communities and Farmer Field Schools	October 2012-September 2013													In progress
			Lead farmers train at least 340 additional olive producers (5-8 trainees per trainer) via hands-on sessions in farmer field schools.	Draw participants from previous training activities. Include reasonable proportion of men and women.																				In progress

Principal Activities	Specific activity with Description	Number of Beneficiaries	Sub-Activities	Tasks	Deliverables	Responsibility	Output Indicators	Outcomes	Impact Expected	Location	Timing	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Status of Achievement
Activity 1.8: Farmer Field Schools.	Work with lead farmers to establish one Farmer Field School in each of the six clusters to hold bi-weekly training sessions.	At least 68 lead farmers: 16 Israelis and 52 Palestinians; At least 1020 farmers total (Year 1 & Year 2): 240 Israeli and 780 Palestinian	Hold training sessions at field schools. (Link to 1.7)	Foster an environment suitable for laboratory trials (at Peres Center and PCARD) and the comparison of different techniques for educational purposes (see activity 1.11),	Training reports.	NEF, and PCARD and Peres Center	• At least 1088 farmers trained at field schools.	• Olive Oil producers have improved knowledge and skills. • Israeli and Palestinian farmers exchange in dialogue and sharing.	•	6 Clusters of villages: 4 in Palestinian Territory 2 in Israel	July 2013-September 2013													To be completed starting in July
Activity 1.9: Support for adoption of improved techniques.	Identify technical upgrading opportunities and encourage Israeli-Palestinian collaboration.	At least 1020 farmers total (Year 1 & Year 2): 240 Israeli and 780 Palestinian	Support the adoption of improved techniques via in-kind grants, subsidies.	Collect and review application; select beneficiaries; procurement following regulations; monitor implementation	Report on in-kind grants.	NEF, with support from PCARD and Peres Center	• At least 385 farmers have opportunity to seek support for adoption of improved techniques.	• Olive Oil producers have improved knowledge, skills, and access to techniques. • Israeli and Palestinian farmers exchange in dialogue and sharing. • Increased production /improved quality of olive oil.	• Peacebuilding through dialogue and sharing between Israeli and Palestinian farmers. • Cross-border relationship developed that improve olive sector production and livelihoods	34 Communities: 8 in Israel 26 in Palestinian Territory	October 2012 – September 2013													In progress
			Provide guidance in building economies of scale for bulk purchase and/or service delivery.	Decrease gap between Israeli and Palestinian production standards; promote modern techniques/ importance of quality and timing in accessing markets.							Selection of new grantees: September 2013													In progress
Activity 1.10: Site visits in Israel.	Organize 2 visits per year, 20 participants per visit in Israel (closely guided by Peres Center experts).	40 individual farmers (20 per visit): 20 Israeli, 20 Palestinian	Obtain travel permits	Obtain travel permits.	Travel permits.	NEF	• At least 40 farmers participate in site visits in Israel.	• Olive Oil producers have improved knowledge and skills. • Israeli and Palestinian farmers exchange in dialogue and sharing.		Various farms in Israel	Oct. 2012; April 2013; June 2013													2 visits completed
			Organize 2 visits, at least 20 participants per visit.	Organize field visits in Israel (closely guided by Peres Center, experts).	Visits/site reports	NEF, PCARD, Peres Center																		

Principal Activities	Specific activity with Description	Number of Beneficia- ries	Sub-Activities	Tasks	Deliverable s	Responsibilit y	Output Indicators	Outcomes	Impact Expected	Location	Timing	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Status of Achievement
Activity 1.11: Conduct field trials of high-producing varieties of olive trees	Organize participatory field trials for farmers and producers to experiment with new olive varieties with high productivity and resistance to diseases and pests.	45 oil producers and 15 agronomists 23 Israelis 37 Palestinians	Accompany selected oil producers/farmers to Israeli olive farms that profited from technical upgrades (connected to Activity 1.10).	Promote discussion between groups in the interest of mutual understanding and cultural exchange.	Visit Report Testing Reports/ Experiment Outcomes	NEF with PCARD and Peres Center	• At least 60 participate in field trials of high-producing varieties of olive trees.	• Olive Oil producers have improved knowledge , skills, and access to techniques . • Israeli and Palestinian farmers exchange in dialogue and sharing. • Increased production /improved quality of olive oil.	• Peacebuilding through dialogue and sharing between Israeli and Palestinian farmers/mill owners. • Cross-border relationships developed that improve olive sector production and livelihoods .	Farmer field schools; also private orchards, based on interest.	Nov. 2012; Sept. 2013													In progress
			Participatory field trials to experiment with new olive varieties with high productivity and resistance to diseases & pests.	Maximize farmer & producer participation in field trials; Arrange trials at program field schools, and/or on land of participants.																In progress				
			Share results of field trials with WSR participants, IOOC-POOC, other venues.	Dr. Fathi Abd El-Hadi and Mr. Fares Jabi to present.		NEF, PCARD, Peres Center based on VCA and project participants													In progress					
Activity 1.12: Facilitate upgrade of 6 olive oil mills to improve quality.	One olive oil mill in each cluster receives training and technical assistance (total 6 olive mills in second year). Provide in-kind support to improve mills through upgrades.	Mill upgrades: 6 mills (serving the entire farming population of the clusters: estimated 3,400 households)	Identify at least one olive oil mill in each cluster to receive training and technical assistance. Total 6 olive mills in second year.	Utilize VCA to determine how best to allocate program resources. Upgrades to begin 3 months prior to start of harvest.	Mill upgrading reports and supporting documentation	NEF with PCARD	• At least 6 mills upgraded (12 total YR1 and YR2)	• Olive Oil producers have improved knowledge , skills, and access to techniques . • Israeli and Palestinian farmers exchange in dialogue		Peres Center and field sites in Israel	June – Sept. 2013													In progress

Principal Activities	Specific activity with Description	Number of Beneficia ries	Sub-Activities	Tasks	Deliverable s	Responsibilit y	Output Indicators	Outcomes	Impact Expected	Location	Timing	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Status of Achievement
			Provide in-kind material support for mill upgrades.	In-kind grants may support: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Improved health and hygieneImproved oil storageMobile labs for quality testingEnvironme ntal manageme nt				and sharing. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Increased production /improved quality of olive oil.																In progress
Activity 1.13: Branding and marketing workshop.	Develop a shared branding and marketing strategy to address the benefits of collaboration.	24 participants (at least 4 per cluster): 8 Israeli and 16 Palestinian	Promote cooperation among oil companies/ traders to develop shared branding and joint marketing campaigns.	Organize one branding and marketing workshop to facilitate collaboration between Israeli and Palestinian firms.	Branding and Marketing Workshops Reports (1)	NEF with PCARD and Peres Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none">At least 24 individual s involved in olive oil companie s participate in branding and marketing workshop.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Israeli and Palestinia n olive oil companies /experts dialogue and share.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Peacebuil ding through dialogue and sharing between olive oil companies .Cross-border relationshi ps developed that improve olive sector production and livelihoods .	Peres Center	Oct. 2012-Sep. 2013 Workshop: Feb. 2013													In progress
			Develop a shared branding and marketing strategy to address the benefits of collaboration (i.e. economies of scale, regional brand recognition, niche marketing).	Conceptualize and organize media awareness of the health impact of oil to increase sales.	Shared Branding and Marketing Strategy	NEF, PCARD, Peres Center, Syracuse University Whitman School of Management Student Partners.															In progress			

Objective 2: Leverage cross-border economic cooperation to promote peace and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians.

Principal Activities	Specific activity with Description	Number of Beneficiaries	Sub-Activities	Tasks	Deliverables	Responsibility	Output Indicators	Outcomes	Impact Expected	Location	Timing	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Status of Achievement
Activity 2.1: Documentation and guidance of reconciliation process by Reconciliation Advisory Group and incorporate conflict management and mitigation into curriculum. (See activities 1.2 and 1.4)	Integrate reconciliation themes and activities. Members of PARCC and the Reconciliation Advisory Group make field visits will be selected for direct field research.		Integrate reconciliation themes and activities into the technical training and organizational development.	Guide local team on best practices for the development of reconciliation and business-oriented trust.	Meetings and Reports	NEF, with PCARD, Peres Center, PARCC; expert consultants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reconciliation themes and activities woven into training modules.Members of PARCC Reconciliation Advisory Group make field visit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Local team uses best practices to integrate reconciliation into project activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Peace and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians through olive oil cross-border economic cooperation.	NEF Headquarters (Nablus), Peres Center and various sites	Oct. 2012-Sep. 2013													In progress
			Members of PARCC and the Reconciliation Advisory Group make field visit.	Field visit arrangements																				In progress
Activity 2.2. Adapt value chain framework to a cross-border conflict management and reconciliation context.	Value Chain Framework – adapted for cross-border conflict management and reconciliation context -- continues to influence project implementation.		-	-	-	NEF, with PCARD, Peres Center, PARCC; expert consultants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">VCAD influences project development and implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Local team uses best practices to integrate reconciliation into project activities.		-	Oct. 2012-Sep. 2013													In progress

[illegible]

Objective 3: Build Capacity of Local Institutions to Scale Up Opportunities and Conditions for Cross-Border Cooperation.

[illegible]

[illegible]

Cross-Cutting Areas

[illegible]

APPENDIX 2: ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION

Activity	Date	Location	Number of Participants							
			Total	Men	Women	Youth*	Israeli	Palestinian	Project Team	Other
ToT Follow up Session	1-Nov-12	Shefa'Amr	17	13	0	0	0	13	3	1
Olive Oil Festival Field Visit	10-Nov-12	Iksal	43	35	0	2	3	35	4	1
Female ToT Site Visit	29-May-12	Kafr Kanna	37	0	32	1	2	30	4	1

APPENDIX 3: SUCCESS STORIES

Palestinian Women Leaders Visit Fair Trade Center and Olive Fields in Israel

In a rare cross-border exchange, 30 Palestinian women civic leaders traveled from the West Bank to Israel, where they met with Israeli and Arab-Israeli women. During the daylong visit, the women - who are all farmers - discussed the economic benefits of cross-border cooperation, modern farming practices, and new income opportunities.

The Near East Foundation led the exchange through its Olive Oil Without Borders project, a three-year initiative funded by USAID.

At Sindyyanna of Galilee, a women-led non-profit organization, the Palestinian women met with 13 Israeli and Arab-Israeli women to learn about the economic benefits of cross-border fair-trade. The women of Sindyyanna produce a variety of fair trade products including olive oil, soap, honey, and baskets.



During the meeting, the Palestinian women introduced their experiences as individual entrepreneurs and their connections with local women's associations similar to Sindyyanna. "I am happy to be here to learn from the creativity of other women powered groups," said Misa from Asira Women's Club in the north of the West Bank.

The women quickly found common ground. Like their Sindyyanna counterparts, many of the Palestinians also generate income from activities such as beekeeping and olive oil soap production.

Following a presentation by Ms. Osnat Shperling, Sindyyanna of Galilee Director, the women asked questions about the organization and exchanged their experiences in business logistics and craft production.

Sindyyanna of Galilee's handwoven artisanal goods, made of date palm branches commonly found in the West Bank, were of particular interest to the visiting women. After taking cellphone photos of handwoven products, the Palestinian women requested that the Near East Foundation assist in setting up workshops by Sindyyanna trainers at women's associations in the West Bank.



As the Olive Oil Without Borders project continues - and NEF expands its work with women entrepreneurs - Sindyyanna trainers from Israel will join with Palestinian women to create innovative and environmentally conscious products that appeal to both cross-border and international markets, and can provide new opportunities for the women to generate income.

After enjoying some free time over coffee and conversation at the Sindyyanna of Galilee

visitor center, the Palestinian women then toured olive groves in the Ein Dor Kibbutz and the Yezrael Kibbutz.

While walking among rows of Israeli olive trees, the Palestinian women expressed surprise at the new olive species and the high level of yield despite the young age of the trees. “Palestinians currently lack the technology and know-how to replicate the techniques that result in this kind of yield,” explained Dr. Abel Hadi, the project’s senior agribusiness specialist in Israel.

In order to bridge the gap in technology and farming knowledge between Palestinian and Israeli female farmers, the Near East Foundation will hold joint training workshops in January 2013. These workshops will be followed by peer-to-peer sessions empowering women to improve their local economy through sharing their knowledge with other women in their villages and amplifying their collective voice in civic affairs.

Upon returning to their West Bank villages, surrounded by silvery green olive groves, the women brought back new ideas and samples of olive varieties they picked while in Israel. The exchange demonstrated to Palestinian women from the West Bank - who rarely come in contact with their Jewish and Arab neighbors living in Israel - that cross-border economic cooperation is feasible and profitable.

APPENDIX 4: PRESS RELEASE

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 24, 2012

U.S. Government Representatives and Palestinian Minister of Agriculture Launch West Bank Olive Season

Salfit, West Bank - On Wednesday, October 24, American Consul General Michael Ratney, USAID Mission Director Mike Harvey and Palestinian Minister of Agriculture Waleed Assaf joined farmers in Salfit to launch this year's olive harvest as part of the USAID-funded 'Olive Oil Without Borders' project, an initiative implemented by the Near East Foundation that aims to build mutual understanding and economic cooperation between the Palestinian and Israeli olive oil sectors.

The group was welcomed by Sameer Al-Masri, a Palestinian olive grower, who gave a tour of his farm located in Salfit in the central West Bank. Mr. Ratney and Mr. Harvey also joined the Al-Masri family in picking olives that will later be preserved or pressed into oil. During their West Bank visit, the U.S. Government representatives distributed harvesting equipment such as ladders, saws and tarps to Palestinian olive farmers, which is part of a larger 'Olive Oil Without Borders' distribution of farming equipment for 400 Palestinian and 50 Israeli olive growers.

During the event, the American Consul General commented, "We understand the importance of the olive harvest to the people of this area, and the 'Olive Oil Without Borders' project is aimed at strengthening farming here through cooperation. We hope that over time everyone here enjoys the benefits of this program."

The 2012 olive season is anticipated to produce approximately 22,000 tons of olive oil from more than 8 million trees. Olive farming is integral to the rural economy of the West Bank and an important focal point for USAID's economic growth assistance, as well as part of its Conflict Management and Mitigation Program.

'The Olive Oil Without Borders' project works to foster cross-border economic collaboration between the Israeli and Palestinian olive sectors at all levels of the value chain. Over the course of the project, USAID through the Near East Foundation will work directly with 1,428 Palestinian and Israeli olive producers, 12 olive press operators, and 12 olive oil distributors to increase their income, profitability and cross-border trade, while improving the level of trust between the two sides and increasing cooperation.

visitor center, the Palestinian women then toured olive groves in the Ein Dor Kibbutz and the Yezrael Kibbutz.

While walking among rows of Israeli olive trees, the Palestinian women expressed surprise at the new olive species and the high level of yield despite the young age of the trees. "Palestinians currently lack the technology and know-how to replicate the techniques that result in this kind of yield," explained Dr. Abel Hadi, the project's senior agribusiness specialist in Israel.

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